

North Central CBA E-Central E-mail



Great Commandment Passion, Great Commission Focus

April 2012



Abbey Resort

See many of you at the Pastors Seminar or Retreat!

Directions are at www.theabbeyresort.com [Click here for a Retreat schedule.](#)

Registration is still possible. Call or email Jean at the office right away, 715-538-2298.

Thankfulness as an Attitude

A famous British poet by the name of Rudy Kipling made a great deal of money as a writer. A newspaper reporter came up to him once and said, "Mr. Kipling, I just read that somebody calculated

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that the money you make from your writings amounts to over one hundred dollars a word." Mr. Kipling raised his eyebrows and said, "Really, I certainly wasn't aware of that." The reporter cynically reached into his pocket and pulled out a one hundred dollar bill and gave it to Kipling and said, "Here's a one hundred dollar bill, Mr. Kipling. Now you give me one of your one-hundred-dollar words." Rudy Kipling looked at that piece of currency for a moment. He took it, folded it up and put it in his pocket. He said in one word, "Thanks."

The word thanks is certainly more than a one-hundred-dollar word, wouldn't you agree? It is more like a million-dollar word. It is a word that is too seldom heard and nearly forgotten in our society today. King David spoke very clearly of "attitude" when it came to a particular culture about saying thanks. "One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness." (Psalm 145:4,7) If any people in America ought to be thankful, it should be Christians. Why? Because we know that we do not deserve anything. We just finished remembering the stunning events surrounding Good Friday and the wonderful life altering miracle of the Resurrection. How many of you left your church service thankful? God, in perfect justice, could have wiped out this entire race and none of us would hope for anything in this life or beyond. But He did not! Does this not awaken gratitude in your heart?

So often we see a different kind of attitude in the world around us and that is, "entitlement". Just ride around in rush hour traffic for a few minutes or notice people at the local mall as they are shopping. It is like people are crying out, "Hey, you owe me!" This attitude of gratitude that I speak of should be an expression of our love to Him in our personal relationship, to each other in the church and to the "curiosity-seekers" in the world.

Dr. Nick Stinnett of the University of Nebraska conducted a recent study to discover what characteristics were common in strong families. He discovered six qualities. The first quality and one of the most important to be found in strong families was that of appreciation. He concluded that families which were strong were strong because family members expressed appreciation for what each member did and for who they were. Check it out. It is true.

Pastor

Contact Our Office

Natural Church Development

How Healthy is Your Church?

This is a proven tool that can help your church with growth, not just in terms of quality but in terms of evangelism.

Give us a call at 715-538-2298.

NCD will help you identify the eight qualities and six growth factors for a healthy church.

Healthy NCD is seeing a steady growth through conversions and the ongoing discipleship of those who are part of the church.

Valuable Information About Your Church's Area

Customized demographic information available about your church location. This is a free service for all NCCBA churches. Call Pat at 952-322-7173 at his home office.

Ministry Quick Links

[CBAmerica](#)

NCCBA

www.nccba-gc2.com

WEBSITE

Soon after you receive this newsletter, we will celebrate the 2012 Annual Pastors/Wives Retreat. I come to this first major event as the new Director with some serious "attitude". I agree with the above study that within every strong family is an attitude of appreciation for who people are and what they do. Similarly, Paul expressed this attitude of appreciation when he said, "We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing." (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4)

Pastor, as a fellow member of this strong NCCBA family, I want to express my personal thanks for the calling God has given you to preach the Good News no matter what. I am grateful for your dedication to shepherd and love God's people within the church you are serving. Your hard work to advance the Gospel within your community does not go unnoticed. From my heart I say, "Thanks!" At the end of every moment of appreciation come the words from our Master on that Day, ***"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"***



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From one of our CLUSTER LEADERS

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING laws by State on our [website](#) under RESOURCES

New Staff Background Checks

NCCBA is now able to perform background checks for member churches. Call the office, 715-538-2298.

From the TRUTH PROJECT: "Does God Exist?"

This is an outstanding series that will help prepare your high school kids for college. It is produced by the same group that did the Truth Project. It includes ten sessions on DVD and ten student books. Our price is \$50.89 plus \$10.00 shipping

Retail for the same set is \$110.89. If you would like to get a preview of why you should consider this go to www.trueu.org and check out: The Toughest Test in College.

Antioch School of Evangelism & Church Planting

Go to College at Your Home Church

(Accreditation by [DETC](#))

Would you be interested in being able to offer college level material in your local church? Would you be interested in being able to facilitate in providing a bachelors degree from your local church? Are you interested in being able to develop your current and next generation leadership?

If you answered yes to any or all of these we encourage you

everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

Every time our Iowa cluster group meets together and talks about the churches we serve, I am amazed at the difference in our congregations. It's not just because we are rural, urban, or suburban. It's not just because we have various worship styles. The unique mix of people makes the difference. Their particular needs and place of spiritual development has a huge impact on the way we do ministry.

I found the same to be true when I was on sabbatical a year ago. Whether Donna and I were visiting Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Bethlehem Baptist in Minneapolis, Harvest Bible Chapel in Rolling Meadows, or the Jerusalem Assembly House of Redemption, every congregation was different. These churches were different not only in ethnicity, age, social class, and philosophy of ministry, but different in their spiritual makeup and maturity.

In these days of church growth seminars and church success stories, I think we pastors are easily enticed to imitate or copy what the booming congregations are doing. There is a temptation to think that simply changing our curriculum, programs, technology, genre of music, dress, appearance, or the way we preach will bring in the crowds. If we just possess the right formula for 21st Century church, then people will be knocking down our doors.

In the book of Acts, the activities of the first congregation show us that God has a plan for church health that transcends culture and time. His formula for both spiritual and numerical growth is for all Christians whether they are new believers or blameless saints. It includes, "Biblical teaching, fellowship, prayer, worship, service, and evangelism." The forms we use to practice these spiritual

to look into this resource. **Antioch School of Evangelism and Church Planting** is a resource that will help equip your church for all of the above. We have three churches in the region that have become certified--Forest City Baptist, Rockford, IL; FBC Jackson, MN; and FBC Whitehall, WI. For further information contact the NCCBA office at 715-538-2298 or by email nccba@triwest.net

Software Discounts

BIG savings on software!

Microsoft Office Pro Plus 2010, Windows 7 Professional, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Acrobat and other Microsoft and Adobe products are available for lease to member churches. [Click here](#) for an order form.

NLT Bibles

CBAmerica is again offering Bibles at greatly reduced rates when ordered by the case. We would like to recommend the NLT Parallel Study Bible and the NLT Study Bible to our NCCBA churches.

NLT Parallel Study Bible (Hardcover)
Normally \$44.99 is \$24.00 each (in cases of 8)

NLT Study Bible (Hardcover) Normally \$39.99 is \$21.00 each (in cases of 10) Available by filling out the order form on the CBAmerica website www.cbamerica.org or toll-free 888-366-3010 in CASE LOTS ONLY

activities can be different, but the functions are not optional.

Our responsibility as shepherds is to make certain that all of these scriptural priorities are taking place in a way that is tailored to the unique needs of the churches we lead and feed. May you and I also have the wisdom to realize that ministry fads will come and go but ministry functions are the things which are commended by God.

*Pastor Jay Jentink
Calvary Baptist Church
Cedar Rapids, IA*

YOUTH PASTOR to YOUTH PASTOR:

When is the last time you re-evaluated your youth ministry?

We mean everything.

When is the last time you put your purpose statement up for grabs (or evaluated your need for one)? Your program schedule? Your relationship with parents?

As the spring wraps up and you are (ideally) wrapping up planning for the summer, it is time to evaluate for any changes you may need for the upcoming youth ministry new year (read: September).

Today, we give you a checklist of questions to consider. Consider it your (and our) cheat sheet for some basic evaluation:

- How is your personal relationship with Christ growing? Stalled? How can it improve?
- How is your relationship with your family? What needs to be fixed?
- How are you cultivating a deeper relationship with the rest of your pastoral and church staff as well as your board?
- Are you praying for students and families as much as you should? If not, how can prayer improve?
- How is the strength of your adult volunteer leadership? How is your relationship with non-youth ministry adults in

your church?

- Is your ministry schedule too busy? Are families being asked to come to your church events too many times a week?
- Are you keeping costs at a minimum? What are ways to make events cheaper for students and their families?
- Are you being responsible with your budget (if you have one)? How could any fundraising efforts be more effective?
- Are you working in advance and letting the Holy Spirit lead your lesson prep or are you flying by the seat of your pants each week (kinda like we did for this article)?
- Do you have opportunities for students to worship? Minister and serve others? Evangelize the lost? Be disciplined in their faith? Have Christ-centered fellowship? Which purposes need to have more exposure in your ministry?
- If you do not have a purpose statement, is now the right time to adopt one? If you do, does it still reflect the vision God has given you?
- In your weekly get-together, are students being loved on and cared for in Christ's love?
- Are you tracking attendance so you know who is sneaking out the back door of your ministry?
- Are your promotional efforts to the students in your community existent? Effective? How can you start off next fall with a big bang?

We would also advise you to take time to individually evaluate each ministry and program you run. Make sure you know its purpose and whom you are trying reach through it. Figure out ways to make things more productive and cost-effective.

Needless to say, there are many more evaluation questions you can ask about your ministry. We would love to hear your questions! Regardless, don't let next year be "just another year." Grow in your walk with Christ and others, and grow your ministry's effectiveness at the same time.

Our theme going into next fall is simple: Do less, but do it better. As we evaluate our ministries together, let's cut out any fat that is holding our ministry's back and get them kingdom-focused.

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[facebook.com/craigmorris](https://www.facebook.com/craigmorris)
twitter.com/CraigMorris (Follow me, please!)

CHAPLAINCY:

Watching My Tax Dollars At Work!

It's tax time again! Probably my most disliked time of year. In fact, as of this writing, I have not yet completed my 2011 taxes. I am still digging for information. I don't always agree with the way our government spends the money we send them each year but recently I was able to attend an event using tax dollars that make me excited. Our military chaplains are given Strong Bond training and each quarter they lead Strong bond seminars for those they serve.

I was visiting chaplains in the south east and stopped in Nashville to attend the wedding of one of our chaplains daughters (Amy Stephens). Her father and brother are CBAmerica Navy Chaplains. After the wedding I visited two other chaplains from nearby Fort Campbell. One of these chaplains stationed at Fort Campbell is Christian Groenendal. He is recently back from a tour of Afghanistan as is Matthew Hebebrand the other Fort Campbell chaplain. Christian and his wife Christina were leading a Strong Bonds weekend in Nashville at an upscale hotel with some 25 couples from Fort Campbell. The budget was upwards of \$15,000 for the weekend. The couples have no expense to attend. Rooms, meals and child care are provided at no cost. The military is taking care of their families. The couples attending are one man, one woman.

The weekend consisted of seminars on building a strong family especially after a deployment. It dealt specifically with

husband/wife relationships and included many concepts including the Five Love Languages. On Sunday morning each couple was asked to restart their relationship and stood facing each other holding hands. Each spouse repeated statements read by the leader and said them to their partner and then asked for forgiveness for things they had failed to do in the relationship. Then the other spouse took their turn. There were tears, hugs and rebuilt relationships by the time it was over. Each quarter our Army chaplains are allotted funding to hold such seminars. Praise the Lord. There is usually a waiting list for couples to attend. Pray for our chaplains as they conduct these seminars that their marriages are strong and that they can be used to encourage other couples.

One of our retired Army chaplains Peter Frederick was the chaplain who put the Strong Bonds program together before he retired.

We keep getting chaplains accepted into the military. Two this month and three applications are in for the next board. Keep praying for all our chaplains. We have new hospital, nursing home and military chaplains on board and we thank the Lord for the quality of candidate He sends us.

If you have questions about chaplaincy contact Al Russell at chapruss@cbamerica.org or by phone at 218-776-2813.

Thank You!

Thank you for your generous response to help pastors attend this year's retreat.

If you would like to help pastors for next year, or contribute to other North Central CBA ministries, use the [donate button on our webpage](#) or checks can be made out to: North Central CBA, and mailed to PO Box 568, Whitehall WI 54773.

Upcoming Events

NCCBA Pastors' Seminar, April 26

NCCBA Pastors & Wives Retreat, April 26-28

NCCBA Annual Meeting, April 27

The Abbey Resort, Fontana, Wisconsin, on Lake Geneva

Register at www.nccba-qc2.com and call 715-538-2298 or email Jean so you

will be included on the list ASAP.

AREA CLUSTER MEETINGS:

Twin Cities Cluster

April 16, 10 AM River of Life Church, Hastings MN
Contact Steve Schoenwald, 651-437-3965

S Illinois

April 17, 11 AM, Living Hope Church, Bartonville IL
Contact Scott Boerckel, 309-454-3833

The list of Pastor Cluster Leaders on our website can be viewed by clicking [here](#)

NCCBA Churches In Need of a Pastor

Please pray for the following churches and Search Committees:

- Mason Township Baptist Church--Cassopolis MI SENIOR PASTOR
- Noelridge Park Church--Cedar Rapids IA SENIOR PASTOR
- Wildwood Baptist Church--East Moline IL SENIOR PASTOR
- Forest Glen Community Church--Chicago IL SENIOR PASTOR

- Ganson Street Baptist Church--Jackson MI YOUTH PASTOR
- Faith Fellowship Church--Cincinnati OH WORSHIP LEADER
- Bethel Baptist Church--Jackson MI WORSHIP LEADER
- First Baptist Church--Worthington MN WORSHIP LEADER (part-time)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS. **Chris Henkalin** is the new Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Community Church, Manchester, Iowa.

Contact Our Office

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